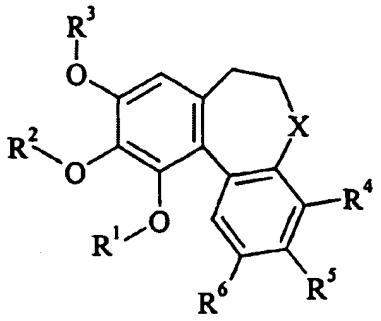
IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 **(cancelled).**

Claim 2 **(currently amended and reformatted):** A compound of the formula IIa:



(IIa)

wherein

X is ~~-C(O)-, -C(S)-, -C=NOH, or~~ -CH(R^7)- wherein R^7 is hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-7}alkoxy, -OR^8 or -NR^8R^9-, (wherein

R^8 is a group -Y^1R^{10}-, (wherein

Y^1 is a direct bond, -C(O)-, -C(S)-, -S-, -C(O)O-, -C(O)NR^{11}-, -SO_2- or -SO_2NR^{12}- (wherein R^{11} and R^{12}, which may be the same or different, each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and

R^{10} is selected from one of the following nine groups:

1) hydrogen, C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylY^8C_{1-4}alkyl wherein Y^8 is as defined herein, or phenyl, (which alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylY^8alkyl or phenyl group may bear one or more substituents selected from:

halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkylamino, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, hydroxy, carboxy, carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, phenyl, nitro, sulphate, phosphate, -Z^1-, (wherein Z^1 represents a 5-6 membered saturated heterocyclic group

1. Click on "Tools."
2. Select "Options" from the drop-down menu.
3. Click the "Network" tab.
4. Locate the Proxy Settings area.
5. Do not check the "HTTP Proxy" box.
6. Select the "Use browser proxy settings" option.
7. Click "OK."
8. Click "OK."

(linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic groups may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from

oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, cyano, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl and Z^2 (wherein Z^2 is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from

oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, cyano, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl and C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl)),

C_{1-4}alkylZ^1 (wherein Z^1 is as defined herein), and

a group $-Y^2R^{13}$- (wherein Y^2 is -NR- C(O)- or -O-C(O)- (wherein R represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{13} is C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl or a group R^{15} wherein R^{15} is a phenyl group or a 5-10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-4 heteroatoms selected independently from O, N and S, which phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from

hydroxy, nitro, halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}haloalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, cyano, $-CONR^{16}R^{17}$ and $-NR^{18}COR^{19}$ (wherein R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl)));

2) R^{15} wherein R^{15} is as defined herein;

3) C_{2-7}alkenylR^{15} (wherein R^{15} is as defined herein);

4) C_{3-7}alkynylR^{15} (wherein R^{15} is as defined herein));

5) Z^1 (wherein Z^1 is as defined herein);

6) $C_{1-7}alkylZ^1$ (wherein Z^1 is as defined herein);

7) $C_{1-7}alkylY^8Z^1$ (wherein Z^1 is as defined herein and Y^8 is -C(O)-, $-NR^{59}C(O)-$, $-NR^{59}C(O)C_{1-4}alkyl-$, $-C(O)NR^{60}-$ or $-C(O)NR^{60}C_{1-4}alkyl-$, (wherein R^{59} and R^{60}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, $C_{1-3}alkyl$, $C_{1-3}hydroxyalkyl$ or $C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl$));

8) $(C_{1-7}alkyl)_cY^9Z^3$ (wherein c is 0 or 1, Z^3 is an amino acid group and Y^9 is a direct bond, -C(O)- or $-NR^{61}-$ (wherein R^{61} is hydrogen, $C_{1-3}alkyl$ or $C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl$)); and

9) $C_{1-7}alkylR^{15}$ (wherein R^{15} is as defined herein);

and R^9 is hydrogen, $C_{1-7}alkyl$ or $C_{3-7}cycloalkyl$, which alkyl or cycloalkyl group may bear one or more substituents selected from $C_{1-4}alkoxy$ and phenyl);

R^1, R^2 and R^3 are each independently hydrogen, PO_3H_2, sulphate, $C_{3-7}cycloalkyl$, $C_{2-7}alkenyl$, $C_{2-7}alkynyl$, $C_{1-7}alkanoyl$, a group $R^{20}C_{1-7}alkyl$ (wherein R^{20} is phenyl which may bear one or more substituents selected from $C_{1-4}alkyl$, $C_{1-4}alkoxy$, $C_{1-4}aminoalkyl$ and $C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy$), $C_{1-7}alkyl$ or $C_{1-7}alkylsulphonyl$, (which alkyl or alkylsulphonyl group may bear one or more substituents selected from:

halogeno, amino, $C_{1-4}alkylamino$, $di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino$, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}alkoxy$, $C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl$, $C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl$, $C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylamino$, $C_{1-4}alkanoyl$, carboxy, phenyl, nitro, sulphate, phosphate and a group $-Y^2R^{21}$ (wherein

Y^2 is $-NR^{22}C(O)-$ or -O-C(O)-, (wherein R^{22} represents hydrogen, $C_{1-3}alkyl$ or $C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl$) and

R^{21} is $C_{1-7}alkyl$, $C_{3-7}cycloalkyl$ or a group R^{23} wherein R^{23} is a phenyl group or a 5-10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-4 heteroatoms selected independently from O, N and S, which phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, nitro, halogeno, amino, $C_{1-4}alkyl$, $C_{1-4}haloalkyl$, $C_{1-4}alkoxy$, $C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl$, $C_{1-4}aminoalkyl$, $C_{1-4}alkylamino$, $C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy$, carboxy,

cyano, -$CONR^{24}R^{25}$ and -$NR^{26}COR^{27}$ (wherein R^{24}, R^{25}, R^{26} and R^{27}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl));

with the proviso that at least two of R^1, R^2 and R^3 are C_{1-7}alkyl;

R^4 is hydrogen, cyano, halogeno, nitro, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-7}alkoxy, C_{1-7}thioalkoxy, C_{1-7}alkanoyl or C_{1-7}alkyl, (which alkyl group may bear one or more substituents selected from:

halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkylamino, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, carboxy, phenyl, nitro, sulphate, phosphate and a group -Y^3R^{28} (wherein

Y^3 is -$NR^{29}C(O)$- or -O-C(O)- (wherein R^{29} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and

R^{28} is C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl or a group R^{30} wherein R^{30} is a phenyl group or a 5-10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-4 heteroatoms selected independently from O, N and S, which phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, nitro, halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}haloalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, cyano, -$CONR^{31}R^{32}$ and -$NR^{31}COR^{32}$ (wherein R^{31}, R^{32}, R^{33} and R^{34}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl));

R^5 and R^6 are each independently selected from hydrogen, -OPO_3H_2, phosphonate, cyano, halogeno, nitro, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, hydroxy, C_{1-7}alkoxy, C_{1-7}alkanoyl, C_{1-7}thioalkoxy, C_{1-7}alkyl, (which alkyl group may bear one or more substituents selected from:

halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkylamino, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, carboxy, phenyl, sulphate, phosphate and a group -Y^3R^{28} (wherein Y^3 is -$NR^{29}C(O)$- or -O-C(O)- (wherein R^{29} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or

C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{28} is C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl or a group R^{30} wherein R^{30} is a phenyl group or a 5-10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-4 heteroatoms selected independently from O, N and S, which phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, nitro, halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}haloalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, cyano, $-CONR^{31}R^{32}$ and $-NR^{31}COR^{32}$ (wherein R^{31}, R^{32}, R^{33} and R^{34}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl))), and

a group $-Y^4R^{35}$ (wherein

Y^4 is -C(O)-, -OC(O)-, -O-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-OSO_2-$, $-NR^{36}-$, $-C_{1-4}$alkyl$NR^{36}-$, $-C_{1-4}$alkylC(O)-, $-NR^{37}C(O)-$, -OC(O)O-, $-C(O)NR^{38}-$ or $-NR^{39}C(O)O-$ (wherein R^{36}, R^{37}, R^{38} and R^{39}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and

R^{35} is a sugar moiety, a mono-peptide, a di-peptide, a tri-peptide, a tetra-peptide, sulphate, hydroxy, amino, C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{1-7}alkoxy, C_{1-7}alkanoyl, C_{1-7}alkylamino, di(C_{1-7}alkyl)amino, aminoC_{1-7}alkylamino, C_{1-7}alkylaminoC_{1-7}alkylamino, C_{1-7}alkanoylaminoC_{1-7}alkyl, di(C_{1-7}alkyl)aminoC_{1-7}alkylamino, C_{1-7}alkylphosphate, C_{1-7}alkylphosphonate, C_{1-7}alkylcarbamoylC_{1-7}alkyl, (which alkyl, alkoxy, alkanoyl, alkylamino, dialkylamino, aminoalkylamino, alkylaminoalkylamino, alkanoylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, alkylphosphate, alkylphosphonate or alkylcarbamoylalkyl, may bear one or more substituents selected from:

halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkylamino, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, hydroxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, carboxy, phenyl, nitro, sulphate, phosphate and a group $-Y^5R^{40}$ (wherein Y^5 is $-NR^{41}C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^{42}-$, -C(O)-O- or -O-C(O)- (wherein R^{41} and R^{42} which may be the same or different each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{40}

is C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, carboxyC_{1-7}alkyl or a group R^{43} wherein R^{43} is a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-4 heteroatoms selected independently from O, N and S, which phenyl, benzyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, nitro, halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}haloalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, cyano, -$CONR^{44}R^{45}$ and -$NR^{46}COR^{47}$ (wherein R^{44}, R^{45}, R^{46} and R^{47}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl))},

R^{48} (wherein R^{48} is a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-4 heteroatoms selected independently from O, N and S, which phenyl, benzyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from

hydroxy, nitro, halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}haloalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, di(C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, di(C_{1-4}aminoalkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, C_{1-4}carboxyalkyl, phenyl, cyano, -$CONR^{49}R^{50}$, -$NR^{51}COR^{52}$ (wherein R^{49}, R^{50}, R^{51} and R^{52}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and C_{1-4}alkylR^{53} (wherein R^{53} is as defined herein),

C_{1-7}alkylR^{48} (wherein R^{48} is as defined herein),

R^{53} (wherein R^{53} is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from

oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}carboxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl and R^{54} (wherein R^{54} is a 5-6-membered saturated

heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from

oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl and C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl)), or

$(CH_2)_aY^6(CH_2)_bR^{53}$ (wherein R^{53} is as defined herein, a is 0, or an integer 1-4, b is 0 or an integer 1-4 and Y^6 represents a direct bond, -O-, -C(O)-, -NR^{55}-, -NR^{56}C(O)- or -C(O)NR^{57}- (wherein R^{55}, R^{56}, and R^{57}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl), and wherein one or more of the $(CH_2)_a$ or $(CH_2)_b$ groups may bear one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, amino and halogeno));

with the proviso that R^5 is not hydroxy, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy (wherein R^5 is Y^4R^{35} and Y^4 is -O- and R^{35} is C_{1-7}alkyl bearing one or more substituents selected from the list given herein), -OPO_3H_2, -O-C_{1-7}alkanoyl or benzyloxy;

with the further proviso that at least one of R^5 or R^6 is a group -Y^4R^{35} (wherein Y^4 and R^{35} are as defined herein) but with the further provisos that when R^5 is -Y^4R^{35} and R^6 is hydrogen, hydroxy, methoxy or methoxycarbonyl, -Y^4R^{35} is not selected from cases wherein:

Y^4 is -C(O)-, -OC(O)-, -O-, -SO-, -OSO_2-, -NR^{36}-, -NR^{37}C(O)- or -C(O)NR^{38}- (wherein R^{36}, R^{37} and R^{38}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and

R^{35} is a glycine, valine or lysine group, a dipeptide of glycine and valine groups, C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{1-7}alkoxy, C_{1-7}alkanoyl, (which alkyl, alkoxy or alkanoyl may bear one or more substituents selected from:

halogeno, hydroxy, and a group -Y^5R^{40} (wherein Y^5 is -O-C(O)- and R^{40} is C_{1-7}alkyl)), or R^{48} (wherein R^{48} is a tetrazolyl group (which may or may not be substituted as herein defined), a phenyl group or a benzyl group which phenyl or benzyl group may bear one or more substituents selected from C_{1-4}alkyl); and

that when R^6 is $-Y^4R^{35}$ and R^5 is hydrogen, hydroxy, methoxy or methoxycarbonyl, $-Y^4R^{35}$ is not selected from cases wherein:

Y^4 is -C(O)-, -O- or $-OSO_2-$ and

R^{35} is C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{1-7}alkoxy (which alkyl, alkoxy or alkanoyl may bear one or more substituents selected from: halogeno), R^{48} (wherein R^{48} is a benzyl group which benzyl group may bear one or more substituents selected from C_{1-4}alkyl), or R^{53} (wherein R^{53} is piperidinyl);

or a salt thereof.

Claim 3 **(cancelled).**

Claim 4 **(original):** A compound according to claim 2 wherein X is $-CH(R^7)-$ wherein R^7 is $-OR^8$ or $-NR^8R^9$ (wherein R^8 is a group $-Y^1R^{10}$ (wherein Y^1 is -C(O)-, -C(O)O- or $-C(O)NR^{11}-$ (wherein R^{11} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{10} is as defined in claim 2) and R^9 is as defined in claim 2).

Claim 5 **(previously amended):** A compound according to claim 2 wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are each methyl.

Claim 6 **(previously amended):** A compound according to claim 2 wherein R^4 is hydrogen.

Claim 7 **(currently amended and reformatted):** A compound according to claim 2 wherein R^6 is hydrogen, halogeno, amino, carboxy, hydroxy, C_{1-7}alkoxy or a group Y^4R^{35} (wherein

Y^4 is -C(O)-, -O- or $-OSO_2-$ and

R^{35} is C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{1-7}alkoxy (which alkyl or alkoxy may bear one or more substituents selected from halogeno), R^{48} (wherein R^{48} is a benzyl group) or R^{53} (wherein R^{53} is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-2 heteroatoms selected independently from O, S and N)).

Claim 8 **(previously amended):** A compound according to claim 2 wherein R^6 is hydrogen, $C(O)OCH_3$ or methoxy.

Claim 9 **(presently amended and reformatted):** A compound according to claims 2 wherein

R^5 is hydrogen, halogeno, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, C_{1-7}alkanoyl, C_{1-7}thioalkoxy, or a group $-Y^4R^{35}$ (wherein

Y^4 is -C(O)-, -OC(O)-, -O-, -SO-, $-OSO_2-$, $-NR^{36}-$, $-NR^{37}C(O)-$ or $-C(O)NR^{38}-$ (wherein R^{36}, R^{37} and R^{38}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and

R^{35} is a sugar moiety, a mono-peptide, a di-peptide, a tri-peptide, a tetra-peptide, C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{1-7}alkoxy, C_{1-7}alkanoyl, C_{1-7}alkanoylaminoC_{1-7}alkyl, (which alkyl, alkoxy, alkanoyl, alkanoylaminoalkyl may bear one or more substituents selected from: halogeno, amino, hydroxy, carboxy, and a group $-Y^5R^{40}$ (wherein

Y^5 is -C(O)-O- or -O-C(O)- and

R^{40} is C_{1-7}alkyl or a group R^{43} wherein R^{43} is a benzyl group),

R^{48} (wherein R^{48} is a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-10-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-4 heteroatoms selected independently from O, N and S, which phenyl, benzyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, fluoro, amino, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, di(C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, di(C_{1-4}aminoalkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl,

C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, C_{1-4}carboxyalkyl, cyano, $-CONR^{49}R^{50}$, $-NR^{51}COR^{52}$ (wherein R^{49}, R^{50}, R^{51} and R^{52}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and C_{1-4}alkylR^{53} (wherein R^{53} is as defined herein), C_{1-7}alkylR^{48} (wherein R^{48} is as defined herein), R^{53} (wherein R^{53} is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from

oxo, hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}carboxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl and R^{54} (wherein R^{54} is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from

oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl and C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl)), or

$(CH_2)_aY^6(CH_2)_bR^{53}$ (wherein R^{53} is as defined herein, a is 0, or an integer 1-4, b is 0 or an integer 1-4 and Y^6 represents a direct bond, -O-, -C(O)-, $-NR^{55}$-, $-NR^{56}C(O)$- or $-C(O)NR^{57}$- (wherein R^{55}, R^{56}, and R^{57}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl), and wherein one or more of the $(CH_2)_a$ or $(CH_2)_b$ groups may bear one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, amino and halogeno));

with the proviso that R^5 is not alkoxy, substituted alkoxy (wherein R^5 is Y^4R^{35} and Y^4 is -O- and R^{35} is C_{1-7}alkyl bearing one or more substituents selected from the list given herein), -O-C_{1-7}alkanoyl or benzyloxy.

Claim 10 **(original):** A compound according to claim 2 selected from:

(5*S*)-5-(acetylamino)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a*,*c*]cycloheptен-3-yl 3-{[(2*R*)-2,6-diaminohexanoyl]amino}propanoate,

(5*S*)-5-(acetylamino)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a*,*c*]cyclohepten-3-yl 3-[(2-aminoacetyl)amino]propanoate,

N-([(5*S*)-5-(acetylamino)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a*,*c*]cyclohepten-3-yl]oxymethyl)-2-morpholinoacetamide,

(2*S*,3*S*,4*S*,5*R*,6*R*)-6-{[(5*S*)-5-(acetylamino)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo-[*a*,*c*]cyclohepten-3-yl]oxy}-3,4,5-trihydroxytetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-2-carboxylic acid,

N-[(5*S*)-3-(4-{4-methylpiperazin-1-ylmethyl}phenylcarbonyloxy)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a*,*c*]cyclohepten-5-yl]acetamide,

N-[(5*S*)-3-(4-{morpholinomethyl}phenylcarbonyloxy)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a*,*c*]cyclohepten-5-yl]acetamide,

(5*S*)-5-(acetylamino)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a*,*c*]cyclohepten-3-yl 3-[4-methylpiperazin-1-ylcarbonyl]propanoate,

5-[{(5*S*)-5-(acetylamino)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a*,*c*]cyclohepten-3-yl}oxycarbonyl]pentanoic acid,

4-(3-[(5*S*)-5-(acetylamino)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a*,*c*]cyclohepten-3-yl]oxy-3-oxopropyl)benzoic acid and

(2*S*)-*N*-[(5*S*)-5-(acetylamino)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a*,*c*]-cyclohepten-3-yl]-2-amino-3-hydroxypropanamide,

and salts thereof.

Claim 11 **(original)**: A compound according to claim 2 selected from

N-[(5*S*)-3-(4-{4-methylpiperazin-1-ylmethyl}phenylcarbonyloxy)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a*,*c*]cyclohepten-5-yl]acetamide and

(2*S*)-*N*-[(5*S*)-5-(acetylamino)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a*,*c*]-cyclohepten-3-yl]-2-amino-3-hydroxypropanamide,

and salts thereof.

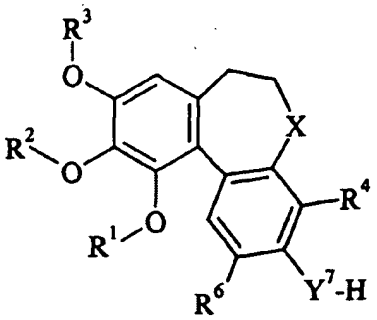
Claim 12 **(original)**: A compound according to claim 2 selected from

(2*S*)-*N*-[(5*S*)-5-(acetylamino)-9,10,11-trimethoxy-6,7-dihydro-5*H*-dibenzo[*a*,*c*]-cyclohepten-3-yl]-2-amino-5-[(2-nitroethanimidoyl)amino]pentanamide

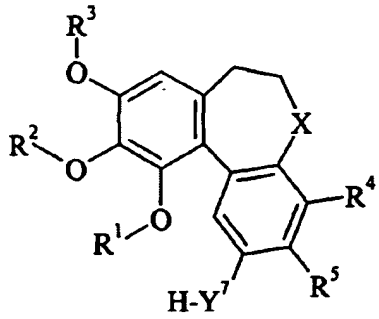
and salts thereof.

Claim 13. **(original; reformatted)**: A process for the manufacture of a compound of formula IIa as defined in claim 2 which comprises:

(a) for the preparation of compounds of formula IIa and salts thereof in which R^5 or R^6 is a group Y^4R^{35} (wherein R^{35} is as defined in claim 2 and Y^4 is a group -OC(O)- or -NHC(O)-), the reaction of a compound of formula III or IV:



(III)



(IV)

(wherein X, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 are as defined in claim 2 and Y^7 is -O- or -NH-), by acylation or coupling reactions;

(b) for the preparation of compounds of formula IIa and salts thereof in which R^5 or R^6 is a group Y^4R^{35} (wherein R^{35} is C_{1-7}alkoxy which may be substituted as defined in claim 2 and Y^4 is a group -OC(O)- or -NHC(O)-), the reaction of a compound of formula III and IV, by acylation reactions;

(c) for the preparation of compounds of formula IIa and salts thereof in which R^5 or R^6 is a group Y^4R^{35} (wherein R^{35} is aminoC_{1-7}alkylamino, C_{1-7}alkylaminoC_{1-7}alkylamino, di(C_{1-7}alkyl)aminoC_{1-7}alkylamino and may be substituted as defined in claim 2, or is

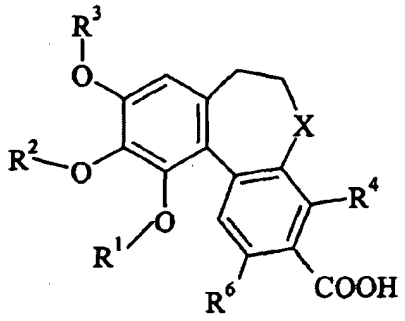
R^{53} (wherein R^{53} is as defined in claim 2) and Y^4 is a group -OC(O)- or -NHC(O)-), can be prepared by the reaction of a compound of formula III or IV, acylation reactions;

(d) for the preparation of compounds of formula IIa and salts thereof in which R^5 or R^6 is a group Y^4R^{35} (wherein R^{35} is a sugar moiety and Y^4 is a group -O- or -NH-), the reaction of a compound of formula III or IV, glycosylation reactions;

(e) for the preparation of compounds of formula IIa and salts thereof in which R^5 or R^6 is a group Y^4R^{35} (wherein R^{35} is sulphate and Y^4 is a group -O- or -NH-), the reaction of a compound of formula III or IV, by sulphonylation reactions;

(f) for the preparation of compounds of formula IIa and salts thereof in which R^5 or R^6 is a group Y^4R^{35} (wherein R^{35} is C_{1-7}alkylphosphate and may be substituted as defined in claim 2 and Y^4 is a group -O- or -NH-), the reaction of a compound of formula III or IV, by phosphorylation reactions;

(g) for the preparation of compounds of formula IIa and salts thereof in which R^5 is amino the reaction of a carboxylic acid of formula V:



(V)

(wherein X, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^6 are as defined in claim 2) via Curtius rearrangement and hydrolysis; and

(h) for the preparation of compounds of formula IIa and salts thereof in which R^5 or R^6 is chloro the reaction of a compound of formula III or IV by the Sandmeyer reaction;

and when a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of formula IIa is required, reaction of the compound obtained with an acid or base whereby to obtain the desired pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

Claim 14 **(original)**: A pharmaceutical composition which comprises as active ingredient a compound of formula IIa as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier.

C laim 15 **(original)**: A method for producing a vascular damaging effect in a warm-blooded animal, such as a human being, in need of such treatment which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount of a compound of formula IIa or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as defined in claim 2.